

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /076 W

-----034580 021734Z /43

O 021629Z DEC 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3665

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 11440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, US, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PREPARATIONS FOR TALKS WITH SOUTH
AFRICANS

REF: A. STATE 286008, B. PRETORIA 6408

1. AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 2 U.K. MISSION CALLED MEETING
OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM U.S., CANADIAN, FRENCH AND GERMAN
MISSIONS. WE WERE INFORMED THAT U.K. INTENDED TO PRESENT
FOLLOWING TEXT TO UNHCR AT 4 P.M. GENEVA TIME:

QUOTE: 1. THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL ARE ENGAGED IN TRYING TO WORK OUT WITH THE PARTIES
A SETTLEMENT OF THE NAMIBIA QUESTION CONSISTENT WITH UN
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NUMBER 385. ONE OF THE ELE-
MENTS OF ANY SUCH SETTLEMENT WOULD BE THAT ALL NAMIBIANS
NOW OUTSIDE NAMIBIA WOULD BE FREE TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA TO
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PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

2. IN THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT HAVE REFERRED TO THOSE NAMIBIANS (SWAPO DISSI-
DENTS) WHO WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO DETENTION
IN ZAMBIA, AND SOME OF WHOM THEY NOW BELIEVE TO BE IN
REFUGEE CAMPS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE U.N. THE SOUTH

AFRICANS HAVE ENQUIRED WHETHER THESE NAMIBIANS HAVE IN FACT A FREE AND VOLUNTARY CHOICE WHETHER TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA. THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE ALSO REFERRED TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE LEFT NAMIBIA FOR ZAMBIA, SOME AT LEAST OF WHOM THEY CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED. THEY SAY THAT IN ANY CASE PARENTS AND RELATIVES INSIST THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THE CHILDREN LEFT OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

3. BOTH SWAPO AND THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT STATE THAT THERE ARE NO LONGER ANY NAMIBIANS DETAINED IN ZAMBIA, AS ALL HAVE NOW EITHER VOLUNTARILY RE-JOINED SWAPO OR VOLUNTARILY RENOUNCED THEIR SWAPO MEMBERSHIP AND BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE UNHCR REFUGEE CAMP.

4. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE IN ZAMBIA TO THE CONTACT GROUP, OF THE THOUSAND OR SO DISSIDENT SWAPO MEMBERS WHO WERE DETAINED AT MBOROMA CAMP, 196 OPTED FOR REFUGEE STATUS AND WERE MOVED EARLIER THIS YEAR TO THE UNHCR SETTLEMENT AT MAHEBA. THESE ARE ABLE IN THE USUAL WAY TO GET PASSES TO TRAVEL TO LUSAKA OR ELSEWHERE IN ZAMBIA. THE REMAINDER, HAVING RE-JOINED SWAPO, WERE TRANSFERRED TO VARIOUS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAMPS IN WESTERN ZAMBIA RUN BY SWAPO SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES. THE BULK OF THE YOUNGER NAMIBIANS ARE SAID TO LIVE AT A LARGE SETTLEMENT NEAR

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KAOMA (CLOSE TO MANGANGO), AND ANY CHILDREN WHO HAVE RECENTLY CROSSED MAY BE THERE. THIS SETTLEMENT RECEIVES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM UNHCR.

5. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION WHICH THE UNHCR CAN PROVIDE RELEVANT TO THESE PROBLEMS. IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD WELCOME CONFIRMATION THAT NAMIBIANS IN THE SETTLEMENT AT MAHEBA WOULD BE FREE TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

6. THE FIVE COUNTRIES ARE CONSIDERING WHETHER TO PROPOSE AS PART OF THE SETTLEMENT THAT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, WHOM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE U.N. IS TO APPOINT TO SUPERVISE THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN NAMIBIA, SHOULD SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNHCR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO ENSURE THAT NAMIBIANS REMAINING OUTSIDE NAMIBIA ARE GIVEN A FREE AND VOLUNTARY CHOICE WHETHER TO RETURN. WHERE NECESSARY, PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE TO ATTEST TO THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF DECISIONS MADE BY NAMIBIANS WHO ELECT NOT TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE UNHCR MAY HAVE ON THIS ASPECT. END QUOTE.

2. FRG DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING. ALL OTHERS INDICATED TO U.K. THAT THEY HAD NO OBJECTION TO U.K. MAKING THIS PRESENTATION TO UNHCR AND TO INFORM UNHCR THAT TEXT WAS KNOWN TO OTHER MISSIONS IN GENEVA.

3. MISSION WILL REPORT UNHCR'S REACTION AS SOON AS KNOWN.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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